



The Wesleyan Chapel
Built in 1860

The Wesleyan Alumnae

Centennial Year

February

1936

THE WESLEYAN ALUMNAE

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"Scientia et Pietas"

(On Wesleyan's seal)

"Here the inquiring pilgrim may resort, and lingering here may live.

"Science will shed upon his mind its enlivening beams, and Religion pour upon the darkness of his soul, the light of immortality.

"He can here grasp the sublime truth of Philosophy, trace the varied combinations of Chemistry, dive into the dark depths of Metaphysics, ascend the towering heights of Mathematics, and following the Sciences through their sublime developments to the wisdom, power and goodness of the Author, learn the adoration which is due to Him."

—From "*An Address on Female Education*," delivered in 1835 by
Daniel Chandler, Esq.

The Wesleyan Alumnae Association

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THE WESLEYAN ALUMNAE

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No. 1

To The Alumnae

"One hundred years have passed, and the grave and gay, the learned and curious, the humble and distinguished, will assemble at this seat of learning to witness the triumphs of cultivated intellect, the gorgeous display of fashion's whim, and the winning smile of beauty's charm.

"We shall witness the splendors of an inspiring ceremony and the enlivening circumstances of a centennial commencement scene.

"The dignity of mind has in every age had its worshippers, and the rich embellishments of a cultivated taste have never been displayed without a train of circling admirers".

For the above eloquence, I make grateful acknowledgment to Daniel Chandler's famous address of 1835.



Dr. Dice R. Anderson,
President

But in more modern language, and with sentiments none the less sincere I do invite and urge all the daughters of Wesleyan to come back to Alma Mater for this Centennial Commencement. You will enjoy the stimulating programs which will be

offered and the association again with schoolmates and friends. You will participate in the commemoration of the establishment of your college and the beginning of collegiate education for women; and you will give great pleasure to those of us who in recent years have been laboring here for the maintenance of the ideals of your college and are looking forward, as are you, to the opening of the new century for old and ever new Wesleyan.

I trust you will come in large numbers and hope for you a most happy and profitable visit.

Let us all join "the train of circling admirers."

Cordially,

Dice R. Anderson, President

From The Alumnae President

Dear Wesleyan Alumnae:

In extending you this invitation to attend the Wesleyan Centennial celebration May 29—June 1, let me ask that you receive it not as a formal announcement but with all the warmth of a homecoming. This hundredth anniversary is a reunion of reunions. You are on the list of expected guests.



Mrs. Annie (Bates) Haden,
National Alumnae Pres.

A colorful pageant portraying the important part of Wesleyan in the advance of the education of women and the changes of a century will be a leading feature. The Historical Commission will have a rare collection of valuable manuscripts, old heirlooms, period costumes. These with a brilliant Alumnae Day program will make memorable the Centennial celebration.

The same opportunity to do honor to Wesleyan and to meet many friends of other years will not come to us again.

Let us make plans to share in this long-to-be-remembered event.

Sincerely,
Annie (Bates) Haden
National Alumnae President.

"To revive the friendships formed in our girlhood, to enliven the future by the prospect of reunions, to form a nucleus around which many shall unite in the future, to furnish food for thought and profitable reflection—as well as to contribute to the strength and prosperity of our Alma Mater, we the graduates of Wesleyan Female College agree to form ourselves into an Alumnaean Association"—so runs the preamble to the first constitution of our association founded in 1859, the first in any woman's college in America.

*"Could one ever forget a Wesleyan commencement
could one ever forget such a thing, having once enjoyed it?"*

—From "Augustus Baldwin Longstreet" by John Donald Wade

The Historical Pageant

When we began, long ago, to plan a portrayal of Wesleyan's history for the centennial commencement we were overwhelmed.

How should we picture the past of the first college for women?

Who could write a pageant or drama distinctive enough to commemorate so important an event—the courageous beginning of higher education for all womanhood?

And then, in studying the past, we found that the pageant was already written!—was written, in fact, in 1835, the year before Wesleyan was chartered.

Daniel Chandler's Speech

In the most delightfully picturesque and quaint language of the time, a young man by the name of Daniel Chandler addressed an audience at the University of Georgia in 1835, on the subject of "Female Education". It was this speech, published by the groups he addressed, which was largely responsible for a change in feeling toward women's education. It is believed that Chandler's speech aided greatly in getting Wesleyan's charter through the Georgia Legislature. A musty copy of the printed speech is treasured in the college library

"Who has stood at the open portals of science," said he, "and invited the timid though gifted female intellect to the services of her temple?"

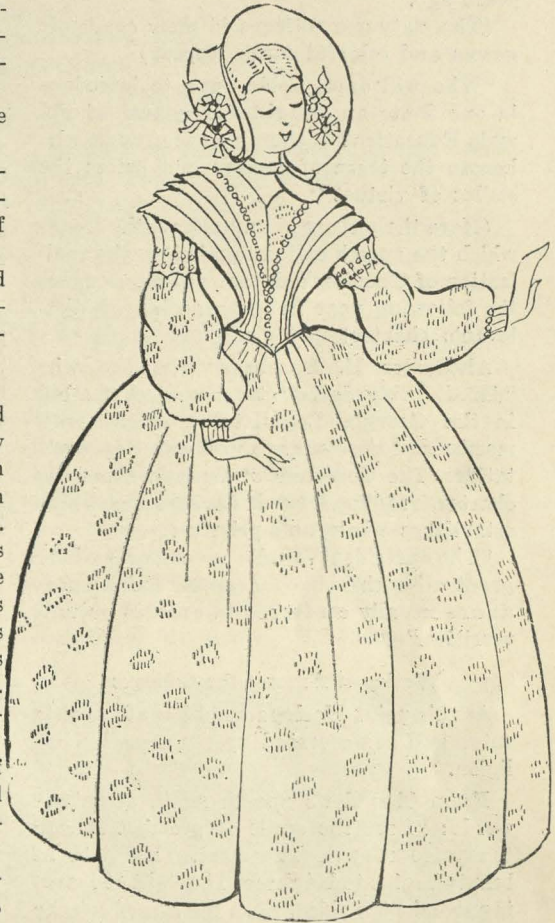
Can you not see the picture?—the Temple of Learning with its Portal of Science, the symbolic figure of "female intellect" to whom the door is closed?

"Female education," continued the speaker, "is rarely honored by a sincere compliment. It is contemned by power, insulted by wealth. Education neglects it. Learning casts upon its humble pretensions the withering smile of a cold recognition."

How easily these words lend themselves to dramatization! The Chandler of the drama takes his seat on a bench near the Temple of Learning, watching the pictures which his long-age words unfold.

Famous Women of History

"Let it not be said," declared the young Chandler of 1835, "that her mind is not susceptible of great improvement. Away



GIRL OF 1840

with the supposition that she cannot master science and understand the higher branches of literature!"

In proof of this statement, he cited a group of women in history outstanding for their intellectual power, Aspasia of Greece, Cleopatra, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine of Russia, Hannah Moore, and others. (See in your mind's eye the procession of these women as they came to his imagination!)

"Give her an opportunity, and science will be her handmaid, philosophy her companion, and literature her plaything!"

The Colleges for Men

"There are in the United States in this

year 1835, sixty-one colleges, and be it said to the disgrace of the nation, not one is dedicated to the cause of female education!" said Chandler to his audience of one hundred years ago.

(The sixty-one colleges in their academic gowns and colorful hoods appear)

"Who will dare, nobly dare, to introduce in our State an enlightened system of Female Education? Is there no one present who honors the tears of beauty and prizes the smiles of virtue?"

(Here the picture changes from the scenes which the speech called to mind, to the realization of Chandler's dream which took place the following year in the granting of Wesleyan's charter)

Alexander H. Stephens (the one who "dared, nobly dared" to champion the bill in the Georgia Legislature) enters with members of the Senate and House Representatives. The Governor of Georgia signs the charter, reading from it the sentence which establishes Wesleyan's priority:

"The president shall be empowered to grant all such honors, degrees, and licenses as are usually conferred in colleges or universities."

Wesleyan Among the Colleges

At this point Wesleyan and her attendants enter and are escorted up the steps by Religion.

From Chandler's speech again are these words: "I see the smile of promise. I hear the voice of encouragement. The vista of beauty begins to brighten. The light of learning streaks the skies. Soon the sun of science

will pour his dazzling splendors upon the female mind. Visions of bliss!"

Procession of the Years

Inevitably, of course, your mind carries on the story of the succeeding years, as the commencement pageant will do. The first graduation with Catherine Brewer and her classmates receiving their diplomas from the hands of George Foster Pierce; the founding of the Adelphean and Philomathean Societies in the fifties, and their chapters today in colleges and universities all over the country; the organization of the Alumnae Association in 1859 (the first Alumnae Association in the world, too!); the long line of alumnae in costumes of all the years showing how woman has truly "mastered science, embraced literature, and struggled with the boldest minds in the proud race for distinction".

The opportunity for spectacular and colorful effects, for beautiful symbolic dance groups, and for musical climaxes, both instrumental and choral, is unlimited.

Already Annabel Horn, of the class of 1906, has put Chandler's speech into workable senario form. Alleen (Poer) Hinton, General Chairman of the Centennial, is appointing heads of various committees for casting, costuming, etc. Costume sketches and directions are being assembled.

Hold yourself in readiness to do whatever is needed by your Alma Mater in the dramatization of this "impractical flight of the imagination", conceived in 1835 by Daniel Chandler, Esq. and set forth in a speech of which Wesleyan College (The Georgia Female College) was the outcome!

The sketch which accompanies this article, and all of the costume sketches to be used for the pageant, were copied by Harriet Ivey, daughter of Minnie (Fambrough) Ivey of Atlanta, a member of the class of 1910.

Wesleyan Alumnae attending the G. E. A. in Macon are invited to dinner at Wesleyan College, Rivoli, at 6:30 P. M. Friday, April 17th.

The Shadowy Past

Let me review the scene
And summon from the shadowy Past
The forms that once have been.

—Longfellow.

Commencement is to be a time of remembering.

Won't you help us to recall "the shadowy Past"; to reconstruct as far as possible the Wesleyan of your college days for those who were students of other years? We need:

For The Historical Exhibit

under the direction of Edith (Stetson) Coleman of the class of '97,

Old costumes

Old programs

Commencement badges, medals, diplomas, essays, music

Pins, class rings

Report cards, rules and regulations of other days

Newspaper announcements and write-ups about Wesleyan

Letters to or from Wesleyan girls

Letters to or from presidents, faculty members, trustees, benefactors

Autograph albums, memory books

Personal belongings of presidents, founders, faculty members, or benefactors

College annuals, student literary magazines, student newspapers

Wesleyan has just received two interesting additions to the historical collection, a black silk scarf which belonged to Ann Waldron Pierce, wife of the first president, Bishop George Foster Pierce, and a license which was issued in 1881 to the merchant who had a store on the very site where the new Wesleyan buildings stand today.

The scarf was the gift of Mrs. J. D. Seago of Greenwood, S. C., granddaughter of Mrs. George F. Pierce, and the license is the gift of Mr. Samuel T. Coleman, of Ma-



In 1899

"You thought we had the whole afternoon for pleasure! No, indeed; we go to our rooms to study."

—From "The Adelphean", Wesleyan College Annual, 1899.

con to whose father it was issued for the commissary run on the Coleman plantation, now the Rivoli campus.

Search your attics and old trunks, and send to the Alumnae Office right away anything you have which may be used for these two historical events. *These must reach us by April 15th.*

If you wish to give these souvenirs of old Wesleyan days to the college, where they will be carefully preserved in fire-proof buildings at Rivoli, we shall be most appreciative and can assure you that they will be treasured.

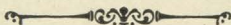
If, however, you wish them returned to

you after Commencement we promise to return them. *Be sure to indicate whether you are lending the mementoes for the exhibit or placing them permanently in the collection.*

In 1888, at the Wesleyan Semi-Centennial, Catherine E. Brewer Benson, the first graduate, returned her diploma to the college saying as she did so:

"This is a memento of the past which returns to its home asking love and protection."

Will you not send your "mementoes of the past" to your Alma Mater where they will be cherished?



"For You, Mother"

"I have a surprise for you, Mother,—"

—Hilda Conkling

What shall you give your Mother-College on the thrilling occasion of her hundredth birthday?

An alumna in Seattle, Washington, has written to ask.

The president of one of the youngest alumnae classes decided that *The Centennial Celebration* was the most urgent need of Wesleyan, and sent a check for \$25.00 to be used for centennial expenses.

The son of an alumnae, Charles Persons of Worcester, Massachusetts, felt that *Scholarships* were most necessary, and sent a check for \$50.00 to Lillian (Roberts) Solomon, secretary of the class of 1876, in memory of his mother, Susan (Malone) Persons.

The first life-time contributor to the Loyalty Fund, Love (Moreland) Leigh of the

class of 1884, has sent in her contribution, which comes as regularly as January rolls around, with her good wishes for the *Centennial*.

These are the two most urgent needs of Wesleyan now—*The Centennial Celebration* and *Scholarships*. Only one request for funds will come to you from Wesleyan, however. You will be asked for a contribution to *The Centennial Loyalty Fund*.

Only *this* year, the year when your college rounds out a century of existence, make your gift as generous as possible!

One alumna has suggested as a motto: "One hundred per cent alumnae givers on the one hundredth birthday of Wesleyan".

So whether you can give much or little, give *something* to Wesleyan, as an expression of your congratulations!

Thoughts for the Centennial Year of Your Alma Mater

"Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations."

—Deuteronomy, 32:7

"In our country there are 61 colleges . . . and to the disgrace of the nation be it spoken, not one is dedicated to the cause of female education."

—Daniel Chandler, speaking in 1835

"As the earliest experiment in woman's collegiate education in the United States, Georgia Female College is the first to draw our attention."

—Dr. Thomas Woody, "A History of Women's Education in the United States"

"And be it further enacted, That the President of the college . . . shall have power to confer all such honors, degrees, and licenses, as are usually conferred in colleges or universities."

—Section 9, from "An Act to Incorporate the Georgia Female College", passed in the Georgia Legislature December 23, 1836.

"Two years ago the notion of a female college was laughed at as a Platonic idea—a mere dream . . . utterly ahead of sober sense and prudent wisdom."

—George Foster Pierce, in *The Southern Ladies' Book*, Volume I, 1840.

"The inexpressible pleasure of knowing what we did not know before . . . the light that springs up, illuminating every object and revealing beauties and harmonies where all was confusion and without interest before . . . these are some of the rewards . . . of education."

—Circular sent out from Wesleyan College in 1845.

"Superior advantages bind you to larger generosity."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

*"For greatly do I feel this need
Of giving you something"—*

—Amy Lowell.

*"And, cast in some diviner mould,
Let the new cycle shame the old!"*

—Whittier, "Centennial Hymn".

Radio Programs

An important part of the Wesleyan Centennial Celebration is the series of radio programs which are being broadcast on the founding and history of the college.

On the second and fourth Saturday afternoons of each month between now and Commencement the Atlanta radio station, WSB will sponsor Wesleyan programs.

Tune in on these broadcasts by different alumnae, faculty members, and trustees of the Oldest and Best.

The time is 5:00 P. M., Central Standard Time.

The dates are:

March 14th and 28th.

April 11th and 25th.

May 2nd and 23rd.

Mr. O. A. Park, Wesleyan trustee, will be the speaker for March 14.

Former Programs

Wesleyan has already gone on the air as follows:

On January 4th—Dr. Dice R. Anderson over WSB, Atlanta, on "The Founding of the First College for Women".

On January 12th—Dr. Anderson over WMAZ, Macon, on Wesleyan's History.

On January 15th—Dr. Anderson over the Columbia Broadcasting System from New York, on "The Beginning of Education for Women".

On January 18th—Annabel Horn, A.B. '06, Alumnae Trustee, over WSB, on "Wesleyan during the War of the 1860's."

On February 1st—Floy (Oliver) Alden, A.B. '11, over WSB, on "Sidney Lanier and Wesleyan College."

On February 22nd—Musical program by Linda (Anderson) Lane, A.B. '19, and Doris (Onderdonk) Jelks of the Conservatory faculty.

All-Wesleyan Day—March 28

"In the celebration of one hundred years of work the college should find herself living anew in the hearts of her hundreds of alumnae as well as in the souls of thousands of other friends. If there should be but two or three of her noble daughters in any given vicinity they should come together for a chat about the 'dear old college' and call to mind once more the glory of her atmosphere. All colleges have atmosphere, but Wesleyan, by reason of her age and significant history, has something different. Let her dear daughters therefore be reassured of this noble fact during this centenary year."

—Letter from Rev. J. N. Peacock in
Macon Telegraph, February 10.

If there is a Wesleyan Club in your home it will, of course, hold an enthusiastic meeting on All-Wesleyan Day to talk of the Centennial. There will be a special radio program over WSB on Saturday, March 28, at 5:00 P. M., C. S. T.

If there is no club, surely the alumnae of the Oldest and Best will want to meet *this* year. Won't you call them together or plan a gathering?

We shall be glad to suggest a program and send you any material you need, alumnae lists, facts about the college today, history of the college yesterday, etc.

Write:

*The Alumnae Office
Wesleyan College
Macon, Ga.*

We are anxious to get in touch with descendants of the 1840 graduates, of the founders and early trustees, of presidents of the college. If you can help us, please write to

The Alumnae Office
Wesleyan College
Macon, Georgia.

The Commencement Program

(Quotations are from the 1835 address of Daniel Chandler)

"We witness the enlivening circumstances of a Commencement Scene."

Friday night, May 29—Dinner at the Dempsey Hotel, Willie (Snow) Ethridge, A.B. '20, as toastmistress. Pauline (Pierce) Corn, A.B., '18, chairman of arrangements. (This will be the time for "*the ardour of youthful emulation, . . . the rich embellishments of a cultivated taste*".)

Saturday morning, May 30—Alumnae Meeting, with a distinguished speaker. Annie (Bates) Haden, A.B., '88, National Alumnae President, presiding. ("*Another year has passed, and the grave and the gay, the learned and the curious, the humble and distinguished, have assembled at this seat of learning*".)

Saturday lunch, May 30—Al fresco luncheon for Alumnae at Conservatory. Helen (Cater) Farmer, and Annie (Gantt) Anderson, class of '13, co-chairmen.

Saturday afternoon, May 30—Historical Pageant on the Rivoli campus. ("*We witness the splendors of an imposing ceremony, . . . the gorgeous display of fashion's whims, . . . the winning smiles of beauty's charms, . . . the triumphs of intellect*".)

Saturday evening, May 30—Musical soiree at Conservatory.

Sunday morning, May 31—Baccalaureate Sermon by Bishop William Fraser McDowell, Ph.D., D.D., LL.D., L.H.D., of Washington, D. C., Bishop of the Northern Methodist Church. At the City Auditorium. ("*. . . of virtuous sentiment, of religious desire and literary distinction*".)

Sunday evening, May 31—Sacred Concert.

Monday morning, June 1—Graduation Exercises ("*We attest the improvement of the Student, the fidelity of the Instructor, and the prosperity of our own dear Institution. The divinity of mind . . . has never been displayed without a train of circling admirers.*")

May 30th is "Alumnae Day". All classes are in reunion this hundredth year of Wesleyan's history.

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Wesleyan Centennial Plates

By Wedgwood

An important feature of the Wesleyan "Centennial Year" is the bringing out of a set of commemorative plates by Wedgwood.

Three Wesleyan scenes, the original building, the towers of old Wesleyan, and the Candler Memorial library at Rivoli will be used as centers. The borders will be in the Patrician pattern, a stock Wedgwood border which may be matched in cups and all sizes of plates.

The Wesleyan plates may be had in ivory with centers of five colors, Staffordshire blue, old mulberry, rose pink, green, and black.

The first hundred dozen ordered will bear the special legend on the back: "Wesleyan College Centennial, 1836-1936".

Prices are: Dinner or service size, 10½ inches in diameter, \$18.00 per dozen; \$1.50 per single plate. Salad or dessert size, 9 inches in diameter, \$16.00 per dozen, \$1.50 per single plate. (Express extra.)

SEND YOUR ORDER TO THE ALUMNAE OFFICE

Please reserve for me.....Wesleyan commemorative plates.

Size..... Color Center

(Colors or centers may be mixed in a set of plates. A deposit of \$5.00 on a dozen, 50 cents on a single plate is required at the time of ordering, the balance to be paid when plates are ready for delivery.)

Amount deposited:

Signed:

Address

Name